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Petitions, signed by very numerous and respectable bodies of the Inhabitants of the North of Ireland, both Protestants and Catholics, complaining that the public peace is kept in a state of continual disturbance, by the existence and conduct of certain Orange Societies. The Petitioners form no political party, but apply to the house as belonging to the primary relations of life, as husbands, fathers and brothers, entitled to the protection of the state, and to have the public peace preserved by the impartial administration of the laws, against an association, which renders the North of Ireland less civilized, and less secure than the Savannahs of the savage Americans. The petitioners state, and do so with perfect accuracy, that this association is illegal, that is in respect to that class of Orangemen* who are embodied by a secret oath: the act of the 50th of the King, c. 102, rendering all associations in Ireland illegal, which are organized by a secret oath. They say that the House of Commons having declared the existence of the Orange Societies in England illegal, and that it was the duty of the executive Government to repress them by enforcing the law, they have an equal right to the same declaration against the same association in Ireland, and the same enforcement of the law by the Irish executive Government.

At present it is not my intention to say any thing that shall provoke any debate, or to found any motion on these petitions. The subject of the existence of this illegal association is now brought fully before the house; and it is obligatory on the executive Government of Ireland to carry into effect the declared sentiments of the house on the nature of this association, though not directly applied to Ireland. If, however, the Government of Ireland should not interpose and fairly administer the law; and if the same system of outrage and disturbance should disgrace the North of Ireland, as prevailed there last July, I shall certainly bring forward a motion early in the next session of parliament, of censure of the executive government. Part of the prayer of the petitioners is to have all illegal associations suppressed. We have just now heard the Government have suppressed the Catholic Board, as being in their opinion an illegal association. Their conduct, on this subject, therefore becomes peculiarly deserving of being closely watched; for if they shall confine their exertions to this single attempt to preserve peace in Ireland, and suffer the Orange Associations to exist in direct violation of an unquestionable enactment of the law, their conduct will be in every respect unjust and partial.

MONTHLY RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

WE feel much pleasure in observing the rapid progress of the Academical Institution lately

any last, nine petitions, including 3485 signatures were mentioned. A tenth was forwarded from the parishes of Moira, Magheralin and Sego..... 743

4228

Another petition from Rostrevor, Rathfriland and Mourne, containing 383 signatures has been since forwarded in hopes, that on being presented, a farther discussion may take place.

* Sir Henry Parnell is under a mistake. Secret oaths are not confined to Orange-

commenced in the town of Belfast. The schools were opened on the first of February last; and at the Common-Hall held on the twenty-first of May, 1814, there was an attendance of above two hundred and fifty pupils in this rising seminary;*

men of one class. All, of every rank, and even they of the lowest grade, are bound by a secret oath. The secrecy of the oath necessarily implies the great difficulty in proving the administration of it as none are present at the taking of it except sworn brothers.

* Common Hall of the Academical Institution, held on the 21st May, 1814.

where we trust that seeds thus plentifully sown, in a soil rich and well prepared, will yield, in due season, under the blessing of Providence, and with a vigilant management, such a goodly harvest, as will prove most honourable to the town, and

in various ways, most profitable to the whole country.

Patriotism ought, no doubt, to begin, where, after all its excursions, it is destined to end—at home; and they may be said to testify their love of country best, who having improved to the utmost their own intellectual and moral powers, as well as those of their offspring, thus add to the stock of the public wealth, and augment the capital of national character. We have not yet, indeed, classed among arts and sciences, the art of getting rich; yet this ought by no means to incline us, in the least degree, to disparage or depreciate its value, either in a personal or public point of view, or to under rate the exercise of those powers, both intellectual and moral, which have been required in order to raise a town like that of Belfast to a state of opulence and high commercial consideration.

The mercantile character, like all other professional character, can attain to such a degree of distinction only by the principles and habitual practice of honesty and honour; and the progressive prosperity of the place becomes, therefore, not only the just reward, but a certain indication of very considerable talents in its inhabitants, not merely of industry and perseverance, but of a strong and shrewd intellect, circumspect in its views, yet always advancing, sagacious in the search of means, and making use of its knowledge both of men and things, to accomplish its end, and at length to realize speculation in lofty house or solid land.

Extract from a Report of the Weekly Visiting Committee.

"We were struck with the regular entrance of 250 boys into the hall, well prepared in all respects for their reception, and the accommodation of auditors and spectators. When silence was proclaimed, the pupils paid great attention to the reading of our commission from the boards, and to the delivery of a short appropriate charge. A theme, or oration, of his own composition, the subject from one of the odes of Horace, was read by one of Mr. O'Beirne's pupils, and a part of a translation of Cicero's oration against Verres, by one of Mr. Knowles' scholars. These discourses were delivered distinctly and decently, so as to convince us the lads had talents for public speaking. From the mathematical class a very accurate figure and demonstration of a problem in Euclid was produced. Some elegant specimens of calculations, and statements of accounts, were produced by young arithmeticians, and some very elegant specimens of writing. Each question and solution was returned to the boy who had produced it, with a short address. The meeting was then dismissed by an exhortation from the classical master, in which he pointed out the duties the boys owed to the proprietors, and members of the board, who had spent so much time and money for their benefit. He praised them for their past diligence and good conduct, and described the duties which they owed to their masters, their parents, their country, and to providence. He described the advantages and honours which would result from their diligence and perseverance, and the mortifying shame which would be the consequences of the neglect of such excellent opportunities.

"255 boys, attended at this Common Hall; viz.

"Classical School, under Rev. A. O'Beirne, 80 boys, including 34 boarders.

"English School, under Mr. Jas. Knowles, 230 boys.

"Mathematical School, under Mr. Jas. Thomson, 140 boys.

"Writing School, under Mr. T. Spence, 155 boys.

"French School, Mr. Lancelles, 20 boys.

"May 21, 1814."

But money, in itself, (except to the insanity of avarice) is not an *end*, but merely a *means* to the end of some future enjoyment; and although we have declared ourselves very far from depreciating the art of getting money (or science if you will, but not "the noblest of the seven") yet it were to be wished, that our fellow-countrymen were, in general, better instructed in the art of spending it; the *taste*, the *talent* displayed in making such splendid use of it, as will decorate the individual, and at the same time promote the best interests of the community. For nothing, we believe, is more certain, than the utter inadequacy, the lamentable disappointment, the hungry and insupportable vacuity which is often felt, when the pursuit of wealth ceases, and the enjoyment of it ought to begin; and this, in a great degree, arising from the neglect of having, at an early period, cultivated some of those arts, or sciences, or branches of literature, so various and multiplied, as if held out by the hand of bountiful nature, to suit the choice of every disposition, and the various tendencies of natural talent.

We may, indeed, force nature to wear an *uniform*, in civil, as in military life; but, if we follow nature, we should be anxious to encourage all her rich variety; and in a town containing between twenty and thirty thousand inhabitants, how much genius, and talent, and taste, must be compelled to serve as the conscripts of trade, when qualified for higher destination; how many inventions, and improvements, and literary capacities, may lie, like the pure and vital air in the black and unpromising manganese, unless there happen to be a skill, a judgment, and a public spirit, to draw it forth, as it were, by its proper elective at-

tractions. An Academical Institution *in that extent* which we contemplate in the warmth of speculation, will become the test and trier of talent, a measure of mental capacity; and as we have barometers and calorimeters, and eudiometers, &c, so this Institute may be denominated a *treprometer*, to designate the powers and capabilities of youth for liberal study or professional vocation.

We have supposed, indeed, that the Academic Institution will be enlarged to *its proper extent*; meaning not merely a local advantage gained by additional schools, but as comprehending a number of *Professorships*, for in the view of full effect, the arts and sciences ought always to go abreast. Such ought to be the happy constitution of this literary establishment, that the advances of every part should conspire to the progress of the whole. In the machinery of mind, as in mechanical combination, it is the composition of forces which gives perfection to the plan, and accelerates its execution: it is the association of a number of men conversant in different departments of human knowledge, scientific, moral, historical, political, classical, mathematical, chemical, agricultural, which is requisite to communicate to knowledge the whole of its *power*, the whole of its *virtue*. This it is which causes a happy marriage (according to Bacon's phrase) between the mind of man and the nature of things, and which renders a liberal and extensive system of education a prime part of the most productive *political economy*. For the faculty of reason, improved in such a variety of ways, will not fail to communicate a general impulse, a literary impetus to the public mind, from the constant action and rotation of these luminous centres of intelligence; and the people at

large must become, in the result, better able to comprehend their true interests, less the dupes of all kinds of bigotry and deception. Thus in giving man a mastery over the elements, he at length acquires a better and nobler masterdom over himself. Knowledge becomes virtue, as well as power, and while to his strong bidding the liberal philosopher "tasks Ariel and all his quality," he binds down to his cell or his cavern, the Caliban of civil and religious intolerance.

We conceive, then, that there is a period when wealth produces luxury, the wish and *want* of spending; and that Belfast has, by industry and ability, arrived at this precise period of prosperity and opulence, when such expenditure will be apt to take a selfish and sensual direction, unless a portion of the riches thus acquired, be dedicated to the cultivation of literature, and the encouragement of the arts and sciences. Luxury, produced by an overflow of wealth, without the providential corrective of literary and scientific pursuits, which sometimes spring up and shoot forth in consequence of this very wealth, would otherwise be apt to stagnate in the possession, or corrupt in the use; and institutions like ours, even inconsiderable when compared to other collegiate establishments, may perhaps be compared to that species of "*conferva fontinalis*," or water moss, which, by the action of light, depurates the air, and disengages a purer element, sweetening the stagnant pool, and checking the incipient putrefaction.

On the whole, we deprecate the idea that Belfast, in its present state of opulence and means of enjoyment, should depend entirely on the single tap root of trade. We think that in a soil so richly manured, in a glebe so stirred and di-

vided, the seed, of various kinds, should be widely scattered; and we ask, with Bishop Berkeley, "whether even those parts of academical learning which are quite forgotten, may not have improved and enriched the soil, like those vegetables which are raised, not for themselves, but ploughed in for the dressing of land?"

Some, indeed, may suppose that science and the liberal arts are exotics in this climate, which will not repay the cost and care of cultivation; yet, like other exotics, time and attention will enable them to thrive, even in the open air, although it may not at first seem congenial; and in the present instance, it certainly must be deemed extremely fortunate, that, along with masters of approved abilities, the institution should have made choice of a Professor so well qualified to make science attractive, and to popularize philosophy; not merely by his possession of much knowledge, but by the more rare facility, or we may call it felicity, of imparting it. The Institute has certainly had good fortune in thus meeting with a gentleman possessed of such ability and assiduity, such energy of mind and body, as are fully equal to give three different courses of lectures in physical science, (one on natural philosophy, a second on chemistry, and a third for the instruction of operative artisans in the principles of the chemical arts and manufactures,*) provided, for this

* There is one subject *incidentally* mentioned in the outlines of the mechanic, or popular course, which we think would furnish matter for half a dozen lectures, to the great advantage of those engaged in our principal manufacture. We mean, not merely a succinct, but a very circumstantial and detailed account of the chemistry of *bleaching*, in its history from Home to Higgins; its various process-

purpose, with a complete philosophical apparatus, (a loan from the Andersonian Institution, and partly Dr. Ure's private property,) such as secures the success of all his experiments, and conveys instruction more impressively and pleasingly, if not more convincingly, by the eye than by the ear.

The numerous and eager attendance on these lectures by all ranks of society, from the Marchioness to the mechanic, indicates, at least, a general disposition to the encouragement of scientific pursuits, and a wish, and want of the means of elegant enjoyment. Yet the lessons of sound and solid philosophy are designed to be a severe study, not, from the first, a casual entertainment; the sciences have no sudden scholars; and the Professor, therefore, only prepares the public for the formation of a school, not merely of popular science, but where professed students are to assemble, ready to court philosophy "in her most abstract and uninviting form," and whose minds are previously furnished with that mathematical knowledge which not only habituates the mental powers to correct investigation, but is, in itself, a master key to unlock the mysteries of nature. To reason from experience, and to experiment with reasoning, ought to be the grand aim of the philosophical instructor, who, like Dr. Ure, unites practical skill to theoretical

knowledge, and whose disciples will not, we trust, rest satisfied with a transient sip of the sweets of science, or the gratification of a vague and vain curiosity.

There is good ground for believing that the Synod of Ulster will take measures for endowing a lecturer on Divinity, Hebrew, and Ecclesiastical History; in which case, it is understood that the managers of the Institution will immediately establish a chair of Moral Philosophy, Logic, and Metaphysics; as being that department of knowledge which was deemed, by the late deputation from Synod, most intimately connected with the course of studies essential to the education of a christian minister. A course of lectures on the Belles Lettres, or Polite Literature, including Rhetoric, Oratory, Composition, the philosophy of language, and in particular, the history, progress, and perfection of the English language, would, in our apprehension, be highly advantageous in establishing the celebrity of the Academic Institution. These chairs, along with a professorship of Natural History, the Chemistry of Agriculture, Botany, and the immediate establishment of a Botanic garden,* for the recreation as well as instruction of the pupils, would in a great degree accomplish the designs of those who most anxiously wish to see Belfast become to Ireland what fair Florence was to Italy,—a seat of science and the elegant arts, under the patronage of commercial liberality, and the protection of legislature, considering, as it ought to do, the perfecting of national education

es, its modern improvements, the means still wanting to secure the strength of the fabric, as well as to accelerate the purpose of the manufacture; and in short, to instruct the gentlemen of the linen trade, the foremen-bleachers, &c. in the most approved practice, as well as the philosophical principles of this important art, which has been of late taken almost entirely out of the hands of nature.

* "Inter silvas academi quærere verum;" but, for this purpose it is time they should be planted. "Nos arriere neveux nos devront cet ombrage."

as a prime part of the truest political economy.*

The definitive treaty of peace was concluded on the 30th May between the allied powers and the king of France, by which France not only preserves the integrity of its limits as in 1792, but obtains an augmentation of territorial frontier, and recovers all her colonies, fisheries, factories, and establishments, with the exception of Tobago, St. Lucia, and the Isle of France, even regaining Guadeloupe from Sweden. Thus on the whole result of these 20 years war, if it has turned out that the French nation, under the pressure of circumstances, have sold their emperor, as by some has been strongly suspected, they have sold him upon excellent terms, and to such advantage, that the individual himself who is made the sacrifice, ought to be content with the bargain, if he be really the patriot he has always professed himself. He should even be happy that he has, in this manner, purchased for France, the very objects of his de-

clared policy, viz. increase of territory, "ships, colonies, and commerce."

And truly when we read of the cross of St. Louis being granted to "our cousins" (which is the cozened, and which the cozeners?) Marshals Massena, Moncey, Jourdan, Augereau, Soult, Brune, Ney, and all the rest of Bonaparte's generals, thus richly compensated, we are half inclined to think that this treaty is only the development of a secret compromise, wherein the grand condition was, "Get rid of this emperor of yours, and you shall retain your honours and dignities, your country shall be re-instated in her place, in her power, in her colonial possessions, only abandon and desert this impracticable man whose ambition we find utterly inconsistent with our present safety, and the peace of the world"—and so it was done.

The schemes of Napoleon were, no doubt, projected on an immense scale, but he had not calculated on the instability of the instruments he employed. His life has been the subject of grand historical pictures, from the time when he was seated in the central chamber of the great pyramid of Cheops, on a block of primigenial granite, surrounded by Muftis, Imaus, Mullans, and Der-vises, until that day when sailing by the Alps, "he leaned for half an hour," says Captain Usher, "upon my arm, earnestly looking at them," and probably contrasting their sublime and serene stability, with the chances and changes of human affairs. Bonaparte certainly may be said to have for a time locked the wheels of the French revolution, but by some it is supposed that it will once more be set *a-going*, when no longer under the pressure of his plenary power, and his personal popularity, or in fact, the

* Examinations, previous to the summer vacation of four weeks, took place at the Institution on the 20th inst., in which the pupils of the different schools exhibited their proficiency before a large assemblage of professional and other gentlemen, to their very great satisfaction; taking, at the same time, into consideration, the very short period which has elapsed since the opening of the establishment, on the first of February, 1814. (*See the end of the Retrospect.*)

The following is a list of the pupils who received silver medals, with appropriate device and inscription, given by the managers of the Institution to those entitled to these rewards of merit, by literary proficiency, *along with* exemplary behaviour. John Kidley, Gorman Gregg, John D. Hull, Edmund Proctor, John Moore, William James McClean, Francis McClean, jun. James Lyne, George Benn, William Drennan.

military discipline he had established through his empire.

A new constitutional charter has now been submitted by the French monarch lately restored, for the approbation of the senate and legislative body, but it is to be doubted whether it be *arbitrary* enough, or *popular* enough to suit the French nation. "Divine Providence in recalling us to our states after a long absence, has imposed upon us great duties. We have considered, that although in France the authority *rests altogether* in the person of the king, our predecessors have not hesitated to modify the exercise of it, according to the circumstances of the times: one of these circumstances is the progress of lights always increasing, the direction which the minds of men have taken, and the important alterations which have resulted." Now, in these expressions of the king of France, we cannot help perceiving a struggle and contest between the antiquated dogmas of divine right, uncontrollable by any subordinate authority in social institution, and a compulsory concession to the circumstances of the times, and the rights of the community. For kings who appeal to *Divine Providence only*, as the source of their authority, in reality wish to be nothing more nor less, than gods upon earth. The principles of the old regime, and the duties of the monarch are striving for mastery, and we see a sort of civil war in the mind of the sovereign, inauspicious to the settlement of the state.

"The king proposes the law." This appears to be an evident return to the principles and practice of the old monarchy, when the parliament had little more to do than to register the decrees of the sovereign. While he initiates every measure the senate is to deliberate *in secret*, a

source of dangerous corruption is opened; and a basis of representation is laid, which must, from its very outset, become subject to the influence of the crown. We see *that* influence made to pervade the whole organization of this new constitution, although in concession "to the light of the times" it, in the *letter*, recognizes great and good principles; equal political rights to the professors of all Christian forms of worship, freedom of person, trial by jury, and liberty of the press. At an entertainment given by a party of British at Paris to Count Platow, Hetman of the Cossacs; the count said, in the course of the day, that the first duty of those who approached princes was to tell them the truth; that he had always done so to the emperor, and always would, whether it agreed with his stomach or not. He talked of the liberties and rights of men as a sacred trust in the hands of their sovereign, and seemed not at all to subscribe to the doctrines of non resistance. We wish that the Hetman would, on his return to Paris, demand an audience of the king of France, and, at the risk of turning his stomach, give him some lessons on the spirit of the Cossac constitution. The influence of the crown seems to pervade the whole of the new French constitution even to the appointment of presidents of the electoral colleges, and the old and new nobility are amalgamated into an aristocracy of princes, peers, officers, and clergy, that will bear heavily on the liberties and properties of the people.

It is, we think, chiefly owing to present circumstances, that the ebullition of this volatile people is kept down, and particularly by the superincumbent pressure of the allied armies. However much it may be wished, it can scarcely be

believed that the popular inclination of France should at once turn from military habit, and occupation, to the cultivation of the arts of peace, and the quiet labour of agriculture or manufacture. If they be not employed abroad, the restless, and mercurial disposition of this people will make news at home, and therefore we are inclined to repeat that the French revolution is again in motion, and that it is only such personal authority as was exerted by Napoleon, or the presence of conquering armies which will be able to secure internal peace for any length of time, in the midst of this fickle, and, at the same time, ferocious nation; a nation, which, after struggling above twenty years for liberty, acquiesces at length in a regulation for the continuance of the slave trade; and a renewal of the worst of wars, in consequence, upon the coast of Africa.

A sort of compromise has indeed taken place between this country and France; the French government promising to abolish the slave-trade in the course of five years, a stipulation which probably will have little effect, when the mercantile part of the community shall find a strong and manifest interest in adhering to this abhorred system. In the mean time, the accursed traffic, suspended for a season by the justice of Britain, will be renewed with ten fold horror, while the opportunity for such a trade, as it is called, but really such a calamitous mischief, continues to exist. This article in a treaty of general peace, for a renewal of war against our fellow-creatures is a lamentable proof how little progress the genuine principles of justice and liberty, have made in the minds of those who have overturned the Bastille*—with

the exception of this sanguinary spot, equally, or nearly equally disgraceful to both parties concerned, but which, we trust, will not prove wholly indelible: we applaud in our humble judgment the treaty in general, as dictated by wisdom, justice, and magnanimous moderation.

Yet notwithstanding the treaty of general peace, war continues to be carried on in Europe, in Africa, and America. The Crown Prince of Sweden, in a state of discontent and dissatisfaction at the disappointment he has met with in the conditions of his bargain, declares to his soldiers, that they must not expect peace till the treaties respecting Norway are fulfilled; or, in other words, till Norway is subjugated by Sweden. While on the other hand, there is only one voice among these mountaineers, namely, to preserve their national honour; and prince Christian is elected the sovereign of this brave people, abandoned by their natural protector. Will no mediation be offered, and will the cries of the Norwegian mothers and children be heard unheeded amidst the feasts given by the fat citizens of London to the potentates of Europe? If an alternative were found for Guadeloupe, might not an indemnity have also been proposed for Norway? And in the addresses to Alexander, "the bringer of blessings" to the world, might not a period be inserted, requesting his intercession in behalf of a country of whose misfortunes he himself may be said to have in some degree been the remote cause, by his appropriation of

And re-assume their Spain and France,
To rule by *doce* alone.

Resolv'd to prove that France and Spain
Have better'd their condition,
One bids the *Slave-trade* thrive again,
And one the *Inquisition*!

[*Morning Chronicle.*]

§ u d

* THE GOOD OLD TIMES.

His past—war drops his crimson lance,
The Bourbons mount the throne,

BELFAST MAG. NO. LXXI.

Finland. It is confidently said, however, that 20,000 Russians are to embark at Cherbourg to assist Sweden in the subjugation of Norway according to treaty, and that brave people will at length be compelled to submit to a force not to be resisted by their physical strength, or even their patriotic enthusiasm.

America also is to be compelled to submission, and 30,000 men are now sailing over the Atlantic, to enforce the maritime rights of Britain, to break the union into pieces, and depose Mr. Madison, sending him perhaps to Bermudas, as Napoleon has been sent to Elba. Yet still the mediation of Russia may be accepted, and at the approaching congress the United States of America may prefer a just claim to be represented as an independent sovereignty in the accomplishment of a general peace. The peremptory refusal of any mediation, on the part of Great-Britain, as if it was still a mere domestic dispute between the mother country and her disobedient colonies, is a proceeding most injurious to national independence, as well as to the general political usages of civilized Europe. It forms a sort of deadly duel between two nations, without the intervention of seconds, and makes war most sanguinary in its end and object, as well as in the means employed. The invading expedition is to sail direct for the Chesapeake, while the British army in Canada is to move in the direction of the Susquehannah, and both armies to meet at Washington, Philadelphia, or Baltimore, carrying at the point of the bayonet, such terms, as will leave America in a much worse situation, as a naval and commercial power, than she was at the commencement of the war. Such is said to be the plan of the British cabinet, and warmly applauded by

a British public, which seconded ministry in the contest carried on against American independence, and, foiled in that attempt, is eager to renew it, under the annual expenditure of 67 millions sterling, and with the prospect of an augmentation in that expenditure by the necessary effects of a war with a kindred people, allied to us in language, in manners, in constitution, in interest, and in natural affection.

Spain reverts to nationality, and the natural love of independence. It is this honest and honourable feeling which makes the people of Spain at present rally round their monarch, anxious to free their country from the influence of either the one or the other of the belligerent parties, on the arrival of peace. The country would be torn to pieces between the English and the French interests; and if the Cortes were, in reality, the mere proteges of the British party, the reason may be evident why they are grown unpopular with a nation which properly wishes for *self-government*, as should be the wish of every independent nation. Gratitude it undoubtedly owes, immortal gratitude to the English armies, and their illustrious commander, but this gratitude is not to absorb superior obligations to the self-dependence of Spain, and to the liberation of the monarchy under a liberated monarch. We are slow to believe that in returning to her freedom of action as a nation, the peninsula will also revert to either civil or ecclesiastical despotism. No. We hope with confidence, that this country also will partake in the general melioration of Europe; and that those high triumphant passions of our nature which always designated the individual Spaniard, will in no long time accomplish the political redemption of the nation by its own

efforts, and totally without the hazard of foreign assistance.

On the 3d instant, the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council issued a proclamation which declared the Catholic Board an unlawful assembly, and prohibited its meeting in future. A proclamation itself is not law, but ought merely to be the exposition of the law, and that exposition, though subscribed by the first legal authorities, has been found, in one or two instances of late, to be erroneous. But submission is certainly due, under the present circumstances, to the interpretation given of the law by the executive power, although in some degree it may seem, by the very terms, self convicted of blameable negligence in suffering such declared infringement of law, for such a length of time, in the vain expectation, that an assembly, so deeply interested, would discontinue their meetings of their own accord, which it was well known they considered not only legal, but necessary to the exercise of the right of petitioning, the forlorn hope of those that suffer. But it seems an unfortunate policy in government to suffer popular interposition to take deep hold in the affections, and even the habits of the Catholic community, and then suddenly to tear it up by the roots with a rude insensibility.

At an aggregate meeting of the Catholics of Ireland held on the 11th instant, it has been denied that the Catholic Board is an unlawful assembly, either within the provisions of the Convention Act or otherwise; the acts of the Catholic Board have been vindicated as distinguished by diligence, talent, and fidelity; the prohibition of its meetings is calculated to obstruct, in various ways, the success of an application to the legislature, and surrounding it with

difficulties which seem likely to render the right and act of petitioning, for a session, ineffectual, and, of consequence, nugatory; yet they are determined to persevere in availing themselves of all warrantable means in the pursuit of emancipation, and to insure that inquiry and effectual discussion of their several petitions in the present session of Parliament, and they adjourn to the 7th July for the purpose of petitioning the legislature, that the Catholics of Ireland may, during any farther continuance of the penal and disabling laws, obtain the benefit of that principle of the Constitution which gives to *aliens*, a jury of one half foreigners.

Have the people of England no sympathies, save those of the *stomach*? Even *those* might interest them for the unhappy Norwegians; but are there no feelings of a better kind, which ought now to operate both on their heads and hearts in taking part with the people of Ireland, their near neighbours in situation, their brethren by law, their fellows in arms who have so lately fought and bled at their side? What bales full of petition against the Corn-bill! How few, for a more equal representation of the people! Bread corn is more their care, than the life of the constitution. The Houses of Parliament succumbed in this instance to the People, and so they would do again, were the People properly zealous for the Reform of Parliament, but all *their* cry is, "Give us our daily bread." Mr. Cobbett, who is always in his proper place when he addresses the common sense of the People, but is a perfect Jobson when he speaks of works of genius or the merits of Milton and Shakespeare (let him stick to his *last*, a sound and serviceable understanding,) has plainly demon-

strated the real causes of the sufferings of the People, in the taxes, the currency, and the interest which must be paid on the national debt; but when he goes farther, and not only traces the high price of bread to the enormous taxes, the taxes to the war, but the war itself to the want of a reform in Parliament, then he speaks to the deaf adder.

Did he desire the English people to petition for such a reform, or to petition in favour of their fellow-subjects the people of Ireland, then he instantly would find that they have no symptoms of feeling, that is, no *stomach*, for such abstract and philosophical speculations. The English as a public, a great body corporate, seem to us to possess no mind, but only senses. Their manners are indeed rude, and republican enough. They shake old Blucher's hand, as if they meant to drag it from the elbow, and would do the same with Alexander, if they could devour him as conveniently; but with respect to that noble republicanism of sentiment, which feels its best blessing in the freedom and happiness of their fellow subjects, that expansion of heart which if it be unable to swell across the ocean in respectful sympathy for America, might at least spread across a narrow channel to advocate the liberties of their united brethren in Ireland, here their feelings are frozen, all popular interference by petition is ridiculed as refined philosophy, and their philanthropy begins, and ends at home. Cheap bread, fat bacon, strong beer, and a bloody boxing match form the essentials of political economy in the opinion of an English public. Horne Tooke says that *bread* means corn or grain, pounded or *brayed*, we suppose in a mortar, and that the *loaf* is raised, "leavened or lifted up," and thus are the people them-

selves *brayed* by taxes, yet sodden as dough, and hardly to be expanded by the leaven of liberty.

The people of Ireland have indeed fresh reason to complain of the selfishness of Britons, and their insensibility to the treatment, the tantalizing treatment given to these zealous aspirants of equal liberty, the Irish Catholics. While the people of the empire at large are thus compelled into union, merely by the necessities of war, and then instantly fall asunder when blessed peace arrives. While religious differences operate effectually in splitting the public of these kingdoms into adverse political parties, the enemies of reform (that ultimate hope of the country) have their sanguine wishes most completely answered; public opinion will never be able to approximate, will never consociate for one common purpose, and all hope of constitutional renovation by the united and irresistible impulse of the national will, must yield to the intestine war of blind and discordant factions, to the worst antipathies of miscalled society. One might imagine that Catholic emancipation was protracted as a measure of state, in order to delay that unity of the whole empire, and assimilation of all its parts, which would give its due weight and effect to the democracy of the constitution. In the late relief bill this foreboded effect is endeavoured to be obviated by the indirect influence of the crown over the Catholic episcopacy, immediately, and, more remotely, over the whole priesthood.

And never, surely, was there a more calumnious insinuation levelled against a pure and pious order of men, than to suppose that, notwithstanding their oaths, their sacred functions, their devotion to their duties, and their whole pastoral and

personal character, they should be placed under the stigma of treasonable suspicion, unless the business of eternity was put under the management of the minister of the day!

Emancipation approaches. "Things cannot long remain as they are," to use the words of a provident statesman. Thinking as we do, that discussion is the very life and soul of this question, that to this alone, it is indebted for its growth and present magnitude, and will be indebted for its speedy consummation, desiring that this topic should be always present to the public eye, and always sounding in the public ear; we should have been anxious for the usual discussion during the present session of Parliament, although uncertain as to its immediate success; because many things are elicited from all sides of the house, in the progress of such a debate, which never fail to clear up difficulties, to reconcile partizans, and to accelerate the final and fortunate termination of this great state measure. The emancipation party is now become a heterogeneous assemblage of English Catholics and Irish opposition members, and ministerial friends, self-elected committees, Boards confidentially entrusted by the people, and now a cardinal legate from the Pope. All this has retarded the progress though it has increased the magnitude of the business.

It is truly wonderful, with what ease and celerity, a treaty of peace is accomplished, after a most sanguinary and long protracted war, in which peace has been, a thousand times over, declared to be utterly impracticable, in such a multitude of counteracting interests. But this is *at once* accomplished when the spirit of peace hovers over the council of sovereigns, and the dove perches upon the sceptre instead of

the eagle. And so it would be in our intestine troubles, by a summary bill of repeal, and a short bill of enactment, a bill merely declaratory of the rights of all British subjects, and a consequent complete incorporation in all the privileges of the empire, privileges which must have been understood to have followed close upon the union, or if not so understood, all the parties in that business, were either the most treacherous of men on the one hand, or the most deceived of men on the other. We wish to believe that there was less insincerity on the one side than we at first imagined, and that there is a strong desire now to redeem the pledge of *honour* most indubitably given at that time to the Catholics of Ireland.

We are well satisfied that an amicable conference between the friends of emancipation in both countries, but who differ as to the time and the mode of relief, while they agree in the substance, would be a measure of great advantage to the common cause, and we lament exceedingly the shyness, reserve, repulsion, and suspicious manner, which, either from personal habits, or falsely assumed consequence, have hitherto obstructed a frank and friendly communication and mutual good understanding upon a measure of such vital consequences to the peace and prosperity of these countries. The prosperity of these countries depends upon the personal liberties of every individual contained in them. It is the possession of equal privileges, which makes our country be felt *our own*, and therefore leads to the best use of it. "Give a man" says Arthur Young, "secure possession of a bleak rock, and he will turn it into a garden. Give him a nine years lease of a garden, and he

will convert it into a desert." It is exactly the same with a country, and Ireland can be tranquillized only by being assured of equal rights and privileges, and equal stake in the constitution, with the rest of the empire, until political liberty rises to the same level in both islands, the want, of equiponderance will always create and continue inquietude and agitation. We must then repeat that peace and prosperity can only be realized (however they may be proclaimed) by the reformation of real abuses of the constitution, and by the formation of a system of general and impartial government, founded upon the principles of justice and equality, extending in practice as well as profession, to all parts of the British Empire, and to all departments of the state.

We have more than once suggested the expediency of a parliamentary commission, or what is to be perhaps preferred, a commission from the executive power to examine into the existing state of things in Ireland, and report thereon to the houses, or to the Prince Regent. Such reports from parliamentary committees were frequent in the years before the late rebellion, and without derogating from the respect due to the Lord Lieutenant, a commission of such men as Lord Erskine, Mr. Sheridan, Mr. Wilberforce, Mr. Whitbread, Lord Castlereagh, Mr. Canning, with the Irish secretary, might give such a statement of Irish affairs, the causes of our internal discontents, and the adequate remedies to be applied, as would not only give the necessary information to Parliament, in their next session, but accelerate their final determination.

THE present state of affairs is far from affording consolatory prospects to the friends of liberty.

This is the era of kings, while the interests of the people are completely held in abeyance. France, Spain, and Holland, have received constitutions given by the rulers, while the people, the real legitimate conferrers of power, are forced to accept as a boon, what belongs to them of right. In these new constitutions, the mode of electing the nominal representatives is peculiarly unfavourable. The people have little influence, as the executive government possess a kind of previous veto on the nomination. Bonaparte led the way in the newly revived fashion of rulers framing constitutions; and for this, and other acts of arbitrary power, he is justly entitled to the execrations of the consistent friends of liberty. He falls unpitied by them, notwithstanding that a better order of things has not succeeded under the return of Louis XVIII. nicknamed *the Desired*, according to the faconic flattery of the French; nor under the management of the artful and profligate Talleyrand, who, after so long professing himself the advocate of liberty, transfers his subserviency under the despotism of Bonaparte, to that of his imbecile successor, the present feeble pageant of the day. Affairs in Spain do not wear a better appearance, and the danger of Europe returning under a state of military despotism is not altogether imaginary. The boasts of Spanish patriotism, and the unmeaning encomiums lavished on the *beloved* phantom of power, who now for his treatment of the Cortes, might be much more appropriately styled Ferdinand THE UNGRATEFUL, were subjects of generous scorn to the reflecting, even at the full plenitude of the fashion, to praise the universal Spanish nation. Now the vice of bestowing flattery on unworthy objects, may be clearly

seen, and might afford a profitable lesson not to transfer the accents of unmeaning adulation to other objects equally worthless, if the instability and unreflecting dispositions of the people in Spain, or among ourselves generally, left any room to hope that they would improve under the experience acquired from a knowledge of their former errors.

Yet, notwithstanding the strong tide which has set in, both at home and abroad, against the cause of liberty, a turn may suddenly come, and a different motion may influence the minds of men. The great work of the progress of the human mind, and of the consequent spread of the principles of freedom, commenced under favourable auspices. Many obstructions occurred from the ignorance, the previous deeply rooted prejudices, and the passions of the chief actors; and at present, liberty, and the principles of freedom, are very much become the objects of reproach, at which the venal, the timid, and unreflecting point the finger of scorn. This retrograde state may not probably last long; at least let us cherish the hope of the return of the sun, after the dark clouds through which we have passed, and are now passing.

Freedom consists in the mind, and in a resolute maintenance of principles. If, therefore, an attempt should be made to complete the present state of retrogression, and banish freedom from the world, let the advocates of liberality and free inquiry present a bold front, and not suffer themselves to be thrown down by the crowd. Independence of mind may be preserved as a sacred internal flame, and reserved for better times. Let the friends of liberty keep themselves undebased by the fear of encountering persecution

for daring to publish the truth, and uninfluenced by the prevalence of a base compliance with the general sentiment running in a wrong direction, so as not to desert the cause of justice, and meanly join in the interested cry against liberty.

In England some gleams of old times occasionally appear in the proceedings of public meetings. In forming arrangements for the documents, it has been peculiarly the aim to select those of most prominent interest, and which are favourable to liberty. They seldom meet a place among the selections of our Irish press, and for that reason a place of refuge is given to them in the pages of this work, in preference to the less interesting details of warfare, or the dry routine of state papers. The address of Berkshire, and the resolutions of the parish of St. Andrews, Holborn, placed at pages 475, and 492, are of this character, although the latter presents some views not perfectly in accordance with our sentiments on the late corn bill. The resolutions, however, have a smack of better times, and point out the true causes of the dearness of the necessaries of life, which arise from the war, and the consequent and unavoidable taxation hence resulting. Now when peace is made, it would be a most desirable circumstance to have all the advantages resulting from it.* The visit of the Emperor of Russia and the King of Prussia to England, affects the inhabitants of London almost generally with an epidemic mania. The trappings of royalty produce a dazzling effect, and have a

* For some judicious observations on the best means of turning peace to advantage, see extracts from Henry Brougham's letter, placed among the *Detached Anecdotes and Observations*.

tendency to produce a predisposition towards high prerogative principles, which, if not counteracted by powerful causes, may probably give a preponderance to sentiments unfavourable to freedom. The Pittite system revives in all its glory, and receives additional splendour from adventitious circumstances not really resulting from it. The inordinate ambition of Bonaparte raised an opposition which ended in his overthrow. The pupils of Pitt assume a claim of merit to the maxims of their master, and the Earl of Liverpool, at the anniversary dinner in honour of Pitt's birth day, brings forward the grand maxim of the deceased statesman, that no expense should be spared to accomplish the ends of the war. These are high sounding words. The maxim has entailed much misery on the British isles, not only in the mischiefs of actual warfare, but in the heavy burdens which remain to warn us against the pernicious system he followed, and which now for a season appears to gain an increase of fashion from a termination which by no means followed as the necessary result of the hurtful course he pursued. Peace was no more the necessary consequence of the Pittite system, as pursued by the author, and adopted by his successors, than the abundant harvest of last year, which has given cheapness and plenty, was the effect of their wisdom and foresight. They have thus acquired a character by chance, and their system, really improvident, injudicious, and to a very considerable degree destructive of the liberties and finances of the country, is in danger of becoming popular, and producing a very hurtful erroneous direction of the public mind.

Lord Castlereagh has obtained a temporary and flashy popularity, but not being founded on substan-

tial merit, it will probably not be lasting. The permission of the continuance of the slave trade in the ceded islands,* which, under the circumstances of the case, is equivalent to the revival of this wicked trade in all its horrors, for an undefined period, reflects disgrace on all the parties concerned in the negotiations; on the wily Talleyrand, who required the freedom of France to do wrong, and on the smooth Castlereagh, who coolly, and with the frigidity of a calculating politician, resigned the claims of humanity, and acquiesced in the wrongs of Africa. Statesmen are seldom warm in the cause of justice, and are easily warped to the side of crooked policy, when their own selfish interests are concerned.

The conduct of the House of Commons on the corn bill, discovers an obedience in that house, even constituted as it is, to the public will, when it is fully exerted, and proves how much good might be done, if the people were true to themselves. The reception of the Regent, even amid the present insane ferment of the king-mania in London, discovers some discrimination. The papers speak of his being permitted to come in for a share of the general cheering, but other accounts represent that he receives many hisses from popular indignation by reason of his conduct towards his wife. It is admitted that the accounts officially published in the papers come from a court reporter, from whom the etiquette of the processions of the court must be exclusively received. Thus the difference between the official information, and the real circumstances of the prince's reception may be ac-

* For resolutions on this subject, see page 494.

counted for, but not in a manner to shew the impartiality or independence of the daily newspaper press.

The state of public feeling is often best indicated by apparently trivial circumstances. In the late display of illuminations for the peace in London, little public spirit was displayed. The mottoes were generally trite, and more indicative of tame submission, than of high toned independence; or exalted sentiment. Cant held a conspicuous place. "The eye of Providence" was a frequent emblem, but we are not told in what manner this prostituted figure was depicted.

The Archbishop of Canterbury in a speech to the society for promoting the system of education according to the church of England, declares that their schools are open to all, but previously to admission, the children must conform to their regulations, requiring the introduction of their catechism, and common prayer book. This is a curious mode of free admission. All of every denomination may come, according to the Archbishop, but they must concede the points in difference before they can be admitted, on this exclusionary plan, to receive the benefits of education.

The trading patriotism of Lord Cochrane, as the popular representative of Westminster has been unmasked. When men like him deceive the confidence of the people, they are deserving of additional exposure. To protect the people against the imposition of pseudo patriots, it becomes a duty to stamp such practices with decided reprobation. Lord Cochrane entered deeply into stock-jobbing speculations, and has been convicted of a conspiracy with his uncle Cochrane Johnstone, and Count de Berenger, and others, by personating the arrival of a messenger from France, on the 21st of February last, bearing the pretended news of the

death of Bonaparte, to raise the funds, to enable them to sell out the stock they held at a great profit. He has been sentenced to pay a fine of £1000, to be imprisoned for twelve calendar months, and to be twice pilloried in that time. Many stratagems were taken to preserve an appearance of his innocence, or rather to persuade the people to believe him not guilty. The offence was treated lightly, and called by the palliating name of a hoax, as if cheating were allowable in the gambling transactions of stock jobbing. This hoax however partook of the nature of a crime similar to using false dice, and was certainly an aggravated form of a prevalent evil. Cobbett, in his *Weekly Register*, undertook the defence of Lord Cochrane, and large quantities of the number of his *Register* containing the defence were circulated, as so to lead to the suspicion, that the writer had lent himself to the imposition, or as is most probably nearer to the truth, that he was the dupe to the artifice of Lord Cochrane, who took this means of prepossessing the public with his defence. Lord Cochrane's manner of clearing himself both before, and after the trial by exculpatory affidavits, and by procuring the oaths of some of his domestics, instead of removing his guilt, only serves to confirm the opinion, that he has added other crimes more heinous to his original one. His patriotism does not appear to be of more sterling stuff, than his honesty.

A popular cry against the Catholic Board is still kept up without meaning. The emissaries and officious tools of government prepared the way by the grand jury resolutions. Attempts were made to degrade the Board in the view of the people, and then the proclamation on the 3d inst. forbidding their meetings, critically made its appearance. They who are unaccustomed to surrender their judgment hood-

winked to any authority, not even to that of popular opinion, though noisily, and yet with unreflecting indolence of thought exerted, see no just grounds for the outcry against this board. The patriotic and virtuous intentions and labours of many of its members (the exertions of O'Connell stand conspicuously pre-eminent,) deserved a more grateful return from the people, than to join in a general condemnation, without exactly and critically examining into the truth of the charges which it became a fashion to exhibit against them.

The Anti-Orange petitions from the north of Ireland have been presented to the House of Commons by Sir Henry Parnell, whose speech on the presenting of them on the 8th inst. will be found at page 495. In our last number, at page 432, will be found a Brief Statement of reasons, which were sent to many members of Parliament, who were supposed to be friendly to the measure. Another petition has since been presented by Sir John Newport; who, in the course of his speech justly remarked, that "one great means of restoring peace to Ireland, would be by putting an end to associations in commemoration of victories long since past. It was fruitless to suppose, that if due means were not used to put an end to them, that the peace of Ireland would ever be restored. As the government had resolved to put down every improper assembly which had a tendency to disturb the public peace, he called upon them for the enforcement of the existing laws, particularly that of 1810, to put down all secret associations, and to prohibit all processions decorated with insignia on particular days, which were galling to one party in the country." It is cause of regret that no procedure is likely to be had on them in the present session, but the "crying grievance," as Samuel Whitbread called it, in a letter acknow-

ledging the receipt of a copy of the petition, is suffered to exist. In the mean time, every exertion should be used to resume the subject in next session, when there may be more leisure, and less of that unsettled state, which has throughout characterized the present one; for no temporary discouragements or difficulties ought to be permitted to prevent the taking up of the business, *session after session*, and even, if necessary, *parliament after parliament*, till effectual redress shall be obtained, by stopping processions which so long as they are continued, must disturb the peace of the country.

Dreadful instances repeatedly occur, which forcibly point out the dangers arising from the Orange system. The evils are still farther increased by so many of the Yeomanry being Orangemen, who, on every occasion, fly to arms, more for the purpose of overpowering the other party, than in the strictly necessary defence of themselves.* However, on some late occasions, government has manifested a laudable impartiality, which, if steadily followed up, must be attended with important advantages. The commander of the corps of yeomanry at Kilkeel has been removed from his command, and his commission of the peace taken from him. At Shercock, in the county of Cavan, a dreadful affray took

* A respected correspondent of the writer's thus described an affray which occurred at the fair of Seaford, in the county of Down, on the 9th inst. "Every mischief seems to arise from a class privileged, as they think, *alone* to bear arms; and upon every quarrel or affray, flying to those arms to annoy their adversaries; thus, as far as I can understand, two fellows quarrelled, and one ran for his arms, and when brought, he was overpowered, his arms taken from him, and himself nearly killed; and this of course was to be avenged by the whole corps to which he belonged. The yeomanry were then called out, and, they say, ill treated."

place, at a fair on the 30th ult. Seven persons were killed and eleven wounded. The magistrates, aided by a commissioner sent down from Dublin, have committed a lieutenant of yeomanry, and 15 others, to prison, for trial at the ensuing assizes at Cavan.

How far the 12th of next month will pass over without a renewal of these dreadful scenes, which never fail to occur on the irritating proceedings of that anniversary, remains to be seen. The counsel of the friends of peace on that occasion to all who feel themselves aggrieved, is "to hold to the law," to give no provocation, nor even to repel force by force, but to keep calm and collected, and thus have a better case to make out, either before a court of law, or a parliamentary commission, which sooner or later, may be confidently expected to take place, to inquire into the origin and conduct of the Orange system.

The Irish secretary, R. Peel, has introduced a bill into parliament, for the preservation of the peace in Ireland, by authorizing the Lord Lieutenant, to appoint in disturbed districts a police officer, to reside as a magistrate with a house and adequate salary, and an additional number of constables under his command. In his introductory speech, the secretary noticed the disturbances in Leitrim, arising from the Carders, &c., and slightly glanced at the affair at Shercock, but he did not make any mention of the Orange outrages in the north, which are not less illegal, and not less destructive to the peace and welfare of the country. Equal justice certainly requires the suppression of the system of Orangemen as of those of the Ribbonmen and Thrashers to which, as means of defence, it gave rise. Without its suppression even-handed justice will not be extended to all classes of the community. It is glaringly partial to suppress one set of disturbers of the peace, and leave another equally

obnoxious to law, and equally violent in their proceedings, to continue their organized system of irritation and violence, under the cover of a secret and illegal oath.

There is one straight forward plan to restore peace, by equally repressing all rioters. This new bill will add to the patronage of government, and in this view is objectionable, but still the real grounds of objection do not lie so much against employing magistrates whose services are to be paid, for volunteer magistrates are not unfrequently the tools of party but against a partiality in selecting the police magistrates, by which the system of favouritism and protection to one party, may be still kept up, and farther increased. Many attempts are made to propagate a spirit of alarm, by insidious reports of pretended risings invented by the crafty, and echoed by the credulous, of which the aim is to cause it to be believed that Orangemen are necessary to preserve the peace, while the case is directly the contrary. These alarmists and the party they support, are the real disturbers and agitators.

An anniversary dinner of the Livery of London, friends of Parliamentary Reform, has been held in London. It is pleasing to observe that this highly important subject continues to be brought into notice, and that Whitbread, Grattan, and Brand, being prevented from attending by a debate in the House, sent letters, assuring of their unaltered sentiments on Reform. Henry Brougham on his health being drank, made some very appropriate remarks.

After alluding to a mistake of the waiter, who, in announcing the toast of "a full, fair and free representation of the people in parliament," had omitted the words "of the people," he observed that "not only here, but in another place, the people were wholly left out in the question of representation."

"There was a full representation of the aristocracy, a fair representation of the landed interest, and a free representation of the court; but the people were scarcely represented at all." In speaking of annual parliaments as one of the objects of the meeting, he said "that there was a fact strongly in favour of them, which was, that in the last year of a session more good was done, and more opposition made to the corruptions of the court, than in all the preceding six. He himself was not conjurer enough to account for this; but some persons of a suspicious cast of mind, had suggested that it was in consequence of what they had to expect at the end of the year, viz. their return to their constituents. This he thought the best argument for shortening the duration of Parliament."

In the exercise of the legitimate right of discussion inherent in a free press, some remarks were made in a note subjoined to the last Retrospect, in which censure was thrown on the Editor of the *Newry Telegraph* for his conduct on the Catholic question. He has replied at considerable length, and his remarks have drawn forth a communication in reply from one of our correspondents in the present number. There is therefore the less necessity for us to enlarge on the present occasion, farther than to observe, that the *Telegraph*, like many other of his contemporaries, has long manifested a strong leaning to the side of power, and to the modish advocacy of slavish opinions. In the present instance, he has disingenuously endeavoured to put dissension between the Catholic People and the Catholic Board. The concession of a veto granted to commissioners appointed by the king, or the executive government, would, to treat the subject politically, be destructive to liberty, and on that ground was reprobated in our last Retrospect, in reply to some remarks in the *Telegraph*.

This Editor speaks of his friend's conduct to the *Belfast Magazine*. If we owed to him more than we conceive we do for his friendly attention to our interests, it would be base to compromise private favours at the public cost; but he may be assured that the remarks in favour of the *Magazine*, for inserting which he claims merit, were not written at the procuration, or with the knowledge of any one connected with the Proprietors of this work.

To avoid recurring again to the subject of the *Telegraph*, it may be as well briefly to reply in this place to some remarks by the Editor on the note attached to the *Commercial Report* in the last number.

After the long essays which the Editor of the *Telegraph* has written on the subject of bank notes, and after nearly two columns written "about it, and about it," in answer to the last note of the Reporter, the Editor now alleges he never said there was a "depreciation," but hints he may give a further explanation of his meaning as to depreciation at his leisure. This appears to partake very much of a quibble, and a trifling on words. The Reporter now confines his observations on the original matter of dispute to its proper place in the *Commercial Report*, and leaves the Editor to enjoy his fancied triumph, as imaginary as his humility, for having demolished in some wordy paragraphs "the laboured arguments of the Reporter during the last six years." The Reporter on his part is heartily tired of discussions conducted on one side in so egotistical a manner: "discussions which find no end, in wandering mazes lost."

K.

ACCOUNT OF THE EXAMINATIONS BEFORE THE SUMMER VACATION IN THE ACADEMICAL INSTITUTION.

The *Belfast Academical Institution* opened its schools on the first of Feb. last, with the most promising appearances. The examinations which commenced on the 20th inst. and continued through the week, have proved, that the appearances

were not delusive. The schools presented an interesting coup d'œil, ardor, zeal and honorable emulation in the pupils answering to zeal and ability in the masters.

The boys were all assembled in Common Hall, with their respective masters, when the Marquis of Donegall, the President of the Institution entered the Hall, followed by the joint Boards of Managers and Visitors, and announced to ten of the boys that silver medals had been allotted to them, in testimony of their uniform good conduct during the Session, whose names are annexed, viz.

George Benn,	Francis M'Clean,
John Dawson Hall,	Gorman Greg,
Edmond Proctor,	James Lyne,
John Edw. Kidley,	William Drennan,
John Moor,	Wm. Jas. M'Clean.

When the time of examinations was announced, the immediate suggestion of common sense was, that much allowance must be made for the imperfect state of preparation of the pupils. The short space of time, which had elapsed from the opening of the schools to the commencement of examinations, not four months, could scarcely suffice for more than an arrangement of the classes. The pupils could not be brought as exhibiting the fruits of a course of education in the Institution. There had not been sufficient time for entering fully on any course, nor for effecting a radical reform of bad habits, nor of supplying deficiencies in the previous course of instruction. Still under every disadvantage, the hand of the master was seen. In the Classical School the students of the higher ranks were examined in Homer and Lucian, and in their answering displayed a sound knowledge of the grammatical structure of the language, together with, what is too rare, an acquaintance with that structure and arrangement of syllable, which make Homer's verse such a striking sample of harmony in sound. In the Latin Classics also the students exhibited a soundness of knowledge in these particulars, which gives a high hope of future excellence; and all proved themselves well versed in the subsidiary branches of history, both real and mythological. In the inferior classes the assiduity of the instructors proved itself manifestly. The youthful pupils brought forward on the occasion, shewed a considerable and highly creditable acquaintance with the principles of the Latin grammar. In short, the display of proficiency in the pupils, was most creditable to the master, and highly gra-

tifying to the examiners, who were not backward in expressing their full satisfaction; and from the whole we may be allowed to indulge what, we hope, will not be deemed a groundless expectation, that the Belfast Academical Institution will be a national benefit, answering the kind hopes of its friends, and justifying the patronage of the wise and liberal.

In the Mathematical Classes much proficiency was displayed, notwithstanding the shortness of the time that has elapsed since their commencement. The pupils of each class were examined upon such a portion of Euclid's Elements as they have been able to prepare since their entrance on the study, and not only displayed an accurate and intimate acquaintance with the several propositions, but also with the objects and distinctions of Mathematics, with the nature and principles of mathematical demonstration, and with the practical results deducible from the several propositions which they have learned. Much advancement has been made in Algebra, that great engine which, for power and utility, forms the boast of modern mathematics, and which is so frequently and so improperly neglected in public seminaries. The pupils of the first class solved with accuracy and despatch several questions producing simple and quadratic equations, and also showed themselves to be acquainted with the application of Algebra to Geometry. Those of the second class were examined so far as simple equations.

The proficiency evinced by the several Geographical classes, was very satisfactory. Besides being severally examined upon the situation, boundaries, population, chief cities, commerce, state of civilization and learning, political importance, curiosities, &c. of a large portion of the earth, the higher classes were circumstantially examined upon the figure and motions of the earth, upon the arguments that prove its rotundity, and upon the proofs and physical cause of its being a spheroid, and gave the most satisfactory answers.

To give a minute account of the numerous Arithmetical classes, would exceed our limits. Suffice it to say, that they were examined in accounts not only with respect to accuracy and despatch, but also with respect to their knowledge of the principles upon which arithmetical operations depend, and in both respects afforded the most satisfactory evidences of proficiency. They showed, therefore to boys,

arithmetic may be taught in a scientific manner with much advantage, and that exercise may be afforded to the judgment as well as to the fingers and the memory, consistently with the qualifications necessary for the counting house.

The examinations in the English department, although not intended as a complete specimen of the plan of education proposed to be adopted by the English master, have been such as to produce satisfaction.

The lowest classes were questioned with as much care as the highest, and the result proved that the energies of the teacher had been directed to every division of the school with the same anxiety and industry.

The English language claims the peculiar honour of having thrown the first certain light upon that difficult branch of philology, which considers what are called the indeclinable parts of speech. Having still within its reach those languages (the Gothic and the Anglo-Saxon) which contain its most important roots, it presents to the scholar a field of speculation not to be surpassed in consequence and extent by that which any other language can afford. Impressed with this conviction, the English master has extricated his advanced pupils from the trammels of certain common grammars; and, on Saturday, those pupils were submitted to a critical examination, conducted before gentlemen of high literary reputation, when the voices, moods and tenses of the verbs, together with the derivation and intrinsic import of the conjunctions, prepositions and adverbs, were explained with precision and distinctness.

The structure of our Heroic Verse, which is unrivalled for the variety and expression of its numbers, was also discussed to the satisfaction of the examiners.

Having stated so much with respect to the department of Grammar, it will be necessary to revert to that of Elocution; which, upon the present occasion, has formed a prominent object. Almost every boy in the school presented a specimen of recitation: But the chief display of puerile talent took place on Friday, when a debate was spoken by thirteen young gentlemen of the first class. It is only necessary to say that the surprise and satisfaction of the visitors was so great, as to render them unwilling to select any particular object for their approbation, so that the premiums could not be decided without a second trial, which accordingly took place on Tuesday, in the presence of the Marquis of Donegall, and nearly three hundred visitors.

The success of this school has so far done credit to the planners of the Establishment, who deserve the thanks of every admirer of his native tongue, inasmuch as that they have rescued the English from that state of undeserved degradation and subserviency in which, with regard to the dead languages it has been heretofore placed: and when we consider that the whole school had been conducted for the greater part of the session by the principal Assistant, without any other aid; we must anticipate from the following course, a result that will be honourable to the head master of this department, and gratifying and profitable to the community.

After the distribution of the premiums, which the Marquis of Donegall was pleased to announce to the pupils, Mr. O'Beirne, Classical master, made an eloquent and instructive address, pointing out the deserts, the duties and deficiencies of the scholars; and Dr. Drennan, as senior visitor, with a short and affectionate farewell, closed the session.*

CORRESPONDENCE ON SUBJECTS CONNECTED WITH THE RETROSPECT OF POLITICS.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

THE NEWRY TELEGRAPH.

THIS is a journal whose characteristic, and whose talent seemed hitherto to be silence; close and guarded silence, upon every question of Irish interest, and above all upon the subject of religious liberty. When such a journal begins at length to say something on these questions, one na-

turally feels curious to hear what, and how the dumb will speak! As for myself, I have, I own, been watchful to remark the slow development, as I may call it, of this Editor's system on religious tolera-

* A grant of £1,500 to the Belfast Academical Institution has been made during this session of Parliament, at the recommendation of the Irish Secretary, and Chancellor of the Exchequer.